

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 202270

22

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAJ-01 ACDA-10 IO-13 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-06 ERDA-07 /120 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:JDGLASSMAN:AJ

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MAGARRISON

S/PRS:FBROWN

----- 126975

R 140002Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 202270

E.O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UR

SUBJECT: PNE/TTB

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING,
AUGUST 10.

Q. FRED, CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN
WHAT YOU ARE TELLING US AND WHAT THE PRESIDENT IS SAYING ON
COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS IN THE WAKE OF THE TWO
BLASTS?

A. I SAW THE PIECE YOU DID THIS MORNING, BERNIE. YESTERDAY
I WAS NOT ASKED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE HAD BEEN
IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE RUSSIANS OH THIS--OR WHETHER WE
HAD ASKED THE RUSSIANS FOR INFORMATION ON THEIR BLAST. I
WAS NOT ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION LAST WEEK WHEN IT WAS
POSED TO ME.

I WAS NOT ASKED YESTERDAY WHETHER OR NOT WE HAD BEEN IN
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 202270

COMMUNICATION WITH OR MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE SOVIETS.
IF I HAD BEEN ASKED, I WOULD HAVE SAID, "YES, WE HAVE."

WE HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH THEM WITH REGARD TO THE

JULY 4 AND JULY 29 SHOTS--AND I THINK THE PRESIDENT SAID

THAT A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO.

Q. BUT--

A. I DO NOT THINK THERE WAS ANY CONTRADICTION. I WAS NOT ASKED IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS WHETHER OR NOT WE HAD BEEN IN COMMUNICATION.

Q. BUT FRED--

A. I THINK I WAS ASKED ON FRIDAY, IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, "DID YOU ASK THE SOVIETS TO PROVIDE YOU INFORMATION ON THEIR NUCLEAR BLASTS?"

AND THE ANSWER TO THAT I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. YES, WELL WHAT HAVE YOU ASKED THEM NOW?

A. ABOUT ALL I CAN SAY, MURREY, IS THAT WE HAVE MADE KNOWN OUR ATTITUDE--

Q. WHEN?

A. --TOWARD THESE EVENTS.

I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

I AM JUST SAYING PRECISELY WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID; NAMELY, THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOVIETS WITH REGARD TO THESE TWO EVENTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 202270

Q. WHEN DID HE SAY THAT? FRIDAY, OR SATURDAY?

A. SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.

Q. WHAT DOES "ATTITUDE" MEAN?

A. OUR POSITION.

Q. OUR POSITION OF WHAT?

A. WITH REGARD TO THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS OF JULY 4 AND JULY 29.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN IF YOU HAD AN ATTITUDE, THAT THE SOVIET
BLASTS EXCEEDED THE LIMIT?

A. NO, I COULD NOT CHARACTERIZE OUR ATTITUDE BECAUSE I DO
NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS.

I DO NOT THINK THE PRESIDENT CHARACTERIZED IT EITHER.

Q. BUT, FRED, YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT YOU WOULD GET IN
TOUCH WITH THE RUSSIANS IF IT APPEARED THAT THESE TWO
BLASTS WERE SUPERIOR--OF A POWER SUPERIOR TO 150 KILOTONS.

A. YES.

Q. YOU SAID IT WOULD BE, THEN, A MATTER FOR CONSULTATION.
SHOULD WE IMPLY, THEN THAT--

A. THAT WOULD BE A MATTER FOR CONSULTATION.

Q. YOU SAID, "IF IT EXCEEDED--"

A. WHAT I SAID WAS THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE
SOVIETS ON THIS MATTER. I THINK THE QUESTION OF CONSULTA-
TION, IF IT IS DETERMINED, IN FACT, THAT THE BLASTS ARE IN
EXCESS OF 150 KT--

Q. O.K.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 202270

A. --THAT WOULD BE YET ANOTHER COMMUNICATION.

Q. THE PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE BLASTS
WERE BETWEEN 100 AND 300 KILOTONS. IS THAT CONFIRMED--OR
DOES THAT CONFORM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION?

A. I THINK WE SAID THERE WAS A RATHER LARGE AREA OF UN-
CERTAINTY, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS CHOSEN TO PUT IT IN THE
TERMS OF 100 TO 300. I'M SURE THAT IS ACCURATE. THE
INFORMATION I HAD WAS STRADDLING THE 150 MARK, BUT--

Q. THIS IS STRADDLING THE 200 MARK.

A. I THINK IT ALL GOES BACK TO THE POINT THAT WE HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSING ALL ALONG: NAMELY THE IMPRECISION AND THE IN-
ABILITY AT THIS TIME OF THE EXPERTS TO MAKE A FIRM JUDG-
MENT ON PRECISELY HOW BIG THE EXPLOSIONS WERE. I THINK
THIS WOULD JUST INDICATE THAT WE WERE IN A BAND OF UN-
CERTAINTY.

Q. WELL, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE AGREEMENT PERMITS
TWO MISTAKES A YEAR TO BE MADE. CAN'T THE RUSSIANS CLAIM

THAT THIS IS ONE OF THEIR FIRST MISTAKES?

A. I DON'T THINK IT SAYS THAT. OZZIE IS OUR RESIDENT
EXPER; ON THIS DOCUMENT NOW. I THINK THE EXPLANATION I
HAVE ON IT IS "ONE OR TWO SLIGHT, UNINTENDED BREACHES PER
YEAR WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF THIS TREATY."

Q. THE JULY 4 EXPLOSION WOULD EXCEED THAT IN YOUR VIEW?

A. NO, I DO NOT HAVE A VIEW ON WHETHER IT WOULD EXCEED.
I AM JUST ADDRESSING MURREY'S STATEMENT.

Q. SAY THAT "ONE OR TWO" AGAIN IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE.

A. IN THE LETTER OF SUBMITTAL THIS POINT IS MENTIONED.
"ONE OR TWO SLIGHT, UNINTENDED BREACHES PER YEAR WOULD NOT
BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF THE TREATY. SUCH BREACHES
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 202270

WOULD BE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN, HOWEVER, AND AT THE REQUEST
OF EITHER PARTY WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATIONS."

THAT IS IN THE LETTER OF SUBMITTAL THAT SENT THE TWO
TREATIES TO THE PRESIDENT AND IN SUBSEQUENT TRANSMITTAL
TO THE CONGRESS.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US THE DATES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WITH
THE RUSSIANS, PLEASE?

A. I CANNOT, I DO NOT KNOW. AND I CANNOT OFFER TO GET
THE DATES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS FOR YOU.

Q. WOULD IT BE AFTER THE FIRST BLAST OR THE SECOND?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WILL THE EXPERTS BE ABLE TO PINPOINT THE YIELD OF THESE
EXPLOSIONS TO THE NEAREST KILOTON? CAN THEY GET IT DOWN
THAT FINE, OR WILL THERE STILL BE A BAND OF UNCERTAINTY
AFTER THEY ARE THROUGH INVESTIGATING?

A. I SUSPECT THERE WILL STILL BE A BAND OF UNCERTAINTY,
BUT HOW BIG IT WOULD BE, I WOULD NOT HAZARD A GUESS,
GEORGE. BUT I WOULD GO BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE
TERRAIN SURROUNDING AT LEAST ONE OF THE TWO BLASTS IS
GOING TO CREATE PROBLEMS IN GETTING EVEN A ROUGHLY ACCUR-
ATE FIX ON THE SIZE OF THE BLAST.

SO MY ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION WOULD BE, I DO NOT THINK WE
ARE GOING TO GET IT ABSOLUTELY PRECISE--WITHIN ONE OR TWO
KT.

Q. HAVE THE RUSSIANS AT ANY TIME EVER INDICATED THEY DID-NOT THINK THAT THE TREATY WAS IN FACT VALID OR OPERATIVE UNTIL IT WAS RATIFIED BY THE SENATE?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q. WHAT IS OUR POSITION ON THAT? IS IT IN EFFECT NOW AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED?
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 202270

A. NO, I THINK OUR POSITION IS THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL LAW POSITION; NAMELY THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF CONSIDERATION BY THE PARTIES THE SPIRIT OF THE TREATY SHOULD BE, BY RIGHTS, ADHERED TO. BUT IT HAS NO LEGALLY BINDING FORCE.

Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY ANSWER FROM THE RUSSIANS?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY ANSWER.

Q. DID YOU CHECK TODAY ON THAT?

A. NO, I HAVE NOT POSED THAT QUESTION TODAY.

Q. WILL YOU?

A. I CAN LOOK INTO IT.

Q. HAVE YOU EVER SAID WHETHER THESE TWO BLASTS WERE REGARDED BY THE UNITED STATES AS WEAPONS BLASTS OR PEACEFUL BLASTS?

A. I HAVE NOT STATED--I HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN INFORMATION WHICH WILL PERMIT ME TO STATE WHETHER THEY ARE PNE OR A WEAPONS TEST. THAT INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE TO ME.

Q. THE JULY 4 BLAST WAS AT A WEAPONS TESTING SITE, WAS IT NOT?

A. I UNDERSTAND IT WAS.

Q. THE SECOND BLAST WAS NOT, ISN'T THAT ALSO CORRECT?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, YES.

Q. DID THAT INFORMATION IN ANY WAY COLOR YOUR VIEW AS TO WHETHER ONE WAS A WEAPONS TEST OR NOT?

A. I REALLY CANNOT ANSWER THAT, OZZIE, I DO NOT KNOW. ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY, PRESS CONFERENCES, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE202270
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SOV:JDGLASSMAN:AJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760313-0487
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197608103/baaaepul.tel
Line Count: 270
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PNE/TTB
TAGS: PARM, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006